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## NO THREAT THAT U. S. MAY BE FORCED TO ENTER WAR

Misconstructions Placed On Oral Statement Yesterday Caused Alarm

### NO CHANGE IN NEUTRALITY OF UNITED STATES

After Conference With President Wilson, Secretary Lansing Issued a Second Statement to Correct Impressions Made by Oral Remarks—Notes Were Sent to Belligerent Nations to Impress Upon Them the Fact That the United States, as a Neutral Nation, Was Entitled to Know Exactly What Each Belligerent Seeks in Order That It Might Regulate Its Conduct for the Future—Entente Diplomats Confident There Was No Hidden Meaning in the Notes.

Washington, Dec. 21.—President Wilson's note to the belligerents, urging discussion of peace, was officially interpreted today as not bearing any threat that the United States might be forced to enter the war, because of the continued invasion of its rights by the warring powers on both sides.

This interpretation was made late today by Secretary Lansing in a formal statement issued to correct what were characterized as widespread misconstructions placed on one given out earlier in the day saying that because of the increasingly critical position of the United States as a neutral, it was entitled to know exactly what each belligerent seeks in order that it might regulate its conduct for the future.

Secretary Lansing's final statement, formally prepared and issued after he had been called to the White House for a conference with President Wilson, declared he had not intended to intimate that the United States was considering any change in its policy of neutrality and that the whole tone and language of the note were sufficient to indicate its purpose without further comment on his part.

Mr. Lansing's first statement, made orally and of which no official copy was distributed, led to speculations of its language and purpose throughout official Washington. Its most striking phrases on which the widest speculation was based were that the United States was "drawing nearer the verge of war" and that the sending of the note "will indicate the possibility of our being forced into the war," and that neither he nor President Wilson regarded the note "as a peace note."

When word of what the secretary of state had said spread throughout the capital, it created the greatest consternation in official circles, and among the foreign diplomats, many of whom were calling at the state department to receive their copies of the note despatched to their capitals.

It became known that the secretary's statement was not fully approved at the White House and that there was question as to the wisdom of making any comment that might be regarded as an addition to the note. The White House was concerned lest any word reach the foreign capitals to be construed as indicating that the American note was anything but what it indicated on its face. So, after a conference between President Wilson and Secretary Lansing, the second statement was formally prepared and distributed at the state department.

Entente diplomats, at first at an utter loss how to handle the unexpected situation, became convinced that a clearer understanding of the necessities and purposes of the United States proved that their fear of a more favorable to Germany was not contemplated, and that this country would not try to force peace on Europe. Their view grew that the United States feared that unless the peace proposals go through now, a period of ruthless slaughter and retaliation may set in both sides which will inevitably force this country into action.

It is indicated, therefore, that the allied diplomats will advise their governments to view the note in a friendly spirit and go as far as possible to ward meeting the wishes of the United States.

### GREAT REBOUND MADE IN PRICE OF WHEAT

Caused by Sudden Demand on a Vast Scale to Supply Europe.

Chicago, Dec. 21.—Notwithstanding almost panicky selling and a seven cent break in wheat prices today, the market made a greater rebound and closed strong with substantial net gains. Sudden merchandising demand on a vast scale to supply Europe, with cheap wheat developed, prices tumbled sensationally downward. The ensuing big rally came with such surprising force that wheat at the last part of the day was trading at prices which were a long way from the moves at Washington and elsewhere in regard to peace.

At the opening, vast quantities of wheat were thrown on the market the instant trading began and values crashed downward until in a few minutes the maximum decline had been reached. It was not long, though, before the fact was apparent that, however important diplomacy might be, the question of foodstuff prices was in a large measure distinct.

Signs that European governments were buying wheat on a scale not surpassed in many years, according to the latest estimates that sales to Europe aggregated 2,000,000 bushels or more, at the highest prices in weeks from across the Atlantic, started the upward movement of prices.

Last price were at virtually the topmost level of the day.

### HIGH PRICE OF COAL NOT RESULT OF MANIPULATION

G. W. Anderson, Federal District Attorney at Boston, So Reports.

New York, Dec. 21.—That there are no grounds for the belief that the recent increase in the price of coal was the result of an "artificial and illegal combination" was the statement made here today by George W. Anderson, federal district attorney at Boston, who is in charge of the government's national food and fuel inquiry.

Mr. Anderson came here to confer with Special United States Attorney General Frank M. Swacker, in charge of the federal grand jury investigation in this city after having had similar conferences with the federal authorities in Washington, Philadelphia, Cleveland and Chicago.

"When there are indications that the movement of coal has been checked not only on railroads but at terminals," Mr. Anderson said, "there is reason to suspect that such action probably is the result of an artificial and illegal combination designed to reap extortionate profits through a speculative market."

When you find coal brokers and coal dealers re-consigning coal cars over and over again so as to delay delivery and thereby create a panic you find a coal shortage," he said.

Such a condition is similar to that recently called by David Lloyd George "profiteering."

Boston, Mr. Anderson said, turning to the food situation, "is the only city at present suffering. It even has a shortage of its favorite foodstuff—beans—which are now selling at seven dollars a bushel."

Mr. Anderson said that the department of agriculture, commerce and fisheries, as well as the Interstate Commerce Commission are co-operating in the investigation.

### NO TESTIMONY OFFERED BY HARTFORD UNIONS

In Defense of Suit for \$25,000 Damages for Conspiracy.

Hartford, Dec. 21.—The defending unions offered no testimony at the opening of court in the suit of the Cohn and Routh Electrical company against the Bricklayers union, the Electrical Workers union and six other building trades unions, asking for \$25,000 damages for conspiracy and an injunction to prohibit the building away from congress and pass it to bureaucrats in the departments. He declared certain representatives also were hoping to defeat the bill and then put through an emergency appropriations for buildings in larger cities without making corresponding provision for the smaller communities. The measure will be pressed for passage after the Christmas holidays.

### LINEMAN KILLED; DIDN'T KNOW CURRENT WAS ON

Everett Carter of Berlin Came in Contact With High Tension Wire.

Berlin, Conn., Dec. 21.—Everett Carter, a lineman in the employ of the Connecticut company, was killed last night while at work in East Berlin by contact with a high tension wire. The current, it was stated to the authorities, had been shut off as the custom while the men were at work, but one of them thinking the job had been completed, telephoned to the power house to shut off the current. The result was turned on again with the result that Carter was shocked to death. His home was here.

### OPPOSITION TO \$28,000,000 OMNIBUS BUILDINGS BILL

From Executive Heads of the Government—Chairman Clark So Reports.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Chairman Clark of the public buildings committee charged in the house today that executive heads of the government were opposing the committee's \$28,000,000 omnibus buildings bill because of a desire "to take the authorization of buildings away from congress and pass it to bureaucrats in the departments." He declared certain representatives also were hoping to defeat the bill and then put through an emergency appropriations for buildings in larger cities without making corresponding provision for the smaller communities. The measure will be pressed for passage after the Christmas holidays.

### OBITUARY.

Imri M. Wilcox.

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 21.—Imri M. Wilcox, for more than 25 years cashier of the Aetna Life Insurance company, died at his home here late tonight, aged 68. He had been in ill health for two years. His wife and five children survive.

Charles C. Gray.

Providence, R. I., Dec. 21.—Charles C. Gray, state auditor and insurance commissioner, died here today. He was 75 years of age and served with a Rhode Island command in the Civil war.

## Dobrudja Reverses Bill for Universal Military Training for Teutonic Allies

DRIVEN FROM HEIGHTS IN REGION OF BALABANICA. WILL BE LAID BEFORE CONGRESS NEXT MONTH.

### RUSSO-RUMANIANS HALT WITH ESTIMATE OF COST

In Rumania Proper the Teutons Are Advancing Along Both Sides of the Inu-Racovitzer Road, But Are Encountering Stiff Resistance.

Washington, Dec. 21.—A definite plan for universal military training will be laid before congress next month in the shape of a bill formulated by the general staff of the army, accompanied by complete estimates of cost as compared to the present volunteer system. Major General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff, told the house military committee today that the work was in progress and would require about a month to complete. Chairman Dent said the committee would be glad to see the bill.

In response to a laughing question as to who would introduce it in the house, Representative Kahn of California said:

"And I would be glad to have the honor to introduce it."

Gen. Scott sharply cross-examined. General Scott was subjected to sharp cross examination today on his reiterated recommendation for a universal service measure, based in part on results of the volunteer system as shown in the mobilization of the national guard for border service. Five of the 22 members of the committee took occasion to assert their belief in the theory of universal service, while two emphatically declared against such a system. Those favoring were Representatives Kahn, Greene of Vermont and Tilson of Connecticut, Republicans, and Olney of Massachusetts and Farley of New York, Democrats, while those opposed were Representatives

### Condensed Telegrams

The House approved the continuation of the Sub-Treasury at Baltimore.

All the canals and locks at Sault Ste Marie, Mich., were closed for the winter.

Judge W. W. Lambdin of the United States District Court at Savannah, Ga., is dead.

The Federal Oil Co. of Cleveland increased its capital from \$3,300,000 to \$4,400,000.

The battleships New York and Texas of the North Atlantic fleet, arrived at New York.

President Wilson called at the residence of Senator John Sharp Williams of Mississippi.

The Hunter Arms Co., Inc., of Fulton N. Y., increased its capital from \$150,000 to \$500,000.

Fire destroyed the J. P. Allen department store at Atlanta, Ga., at a loss of \$200,000.

Two hundred workmen in men's clothing manufacturing at Vineland, N. J., went on strike.

The 13th Coast Defense Command was designated as escort for Gov. Whitman on inauguration day.

Fire destroyed Elevator B. of the Nye-Schneider Grain Co., at Fremont, Neb., at a loss of about \$500,000.

The Department of Commerce reports the exports of cotton for the week ended December 16, at 180,655 bales.

A bill providing for imprisonment of those found guilty of cornering foodstuffs was offered by Senator Poin dexter.

The Norwegian steamship Juno, which grounded on Beach Haven, N. J., New York from Cardiff, Wales, was floated.

Gold to the amount of \$2,200,000 was received from Canada and deposited at the Assay Office for the account of J. P. Morgan & Co.

Miss Adelaide Hamilton, the blind granddaughter of Alexander Hamilton, American statesman, left an estate valued at \$720,478.

The coldest December temperature in 15 years was recorded at St. Paul, Minn., mercury dropped to 23 degrees below zero.

Increase of all railway fares in Great Britain, beginning Jan. 1, was announced by the Board of Trade in the House of Commons.

Two men were seriously injured when the Atlantic Coast Line passenger train, No. 57, ran into the rear end of a freight train at Troy, Ala.

One man was killed and two were injured in an explosion in the Edgewater mine of the Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railway Co., at Birmingham, Ala.

Maurice E. Connolly, Borough President of Queens, accepted the resignation of James A. Dayton as Public Works Commissioner for that borough.

Sergeant Robt. E. Gonzales, of the Machine Gun Company, South Carolina Infantry, son of W. E. Gonzales, United States Minister to Cuba, is dead.

Army medical officers on the border reported there was no danger of the cases of spinal meningitis among Georgia and Pennsylvania troops becoming epidemic.

The wholesale warehouse of the Zion Co-operative Mercantile Institution, controlled by the Mormon Church, at Pocatello, Idaho, was damaged by fire at a loss of \$200,000.

Mrs. Catherine Sullivan of the Roxbury district of Boston, who was struck by a train at North Wilmington Monday night, died at a hospital in Lawrence, Mass., yesterday.

The War Department has issued a permit to the New Jersey Interstate Bridge & Tunnel Commission to build a tunnel from about the foot of Canal Street, N. Y., to 13th Street, Jersey City.

The commissioner on Domestic animals issued an order, ordering the muzzling of dogs for a period of ninety days in Danbury, Litchfield and Hamden because of prevalence of rabies.

Charles E. Hughes carried Oregon by a plurality of 7,314 over President Wilson, according to the official returns announced today. The final count was: Hughes 126,749; Wilson 124,455.

General Funston ordered Colonel Richard H. Wilson, commanding troops in the Yuma district, to send a sufficient force to Ajo, Ariz., to protect the place against threatened Mexican trouble.

The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad placed an embargo against all west-bound carload freight connections from the city of Baltimore, except perishables, livestock and foodstuffs for human consumption.

Harvey Daw Gibson, at the age of 34, has been elected president of the Liberty National bank in New York, to succeed Thomas Cochran, who will become a member of the firm of J. P. Morgan and company.

Baron Robt. E. Oppenheim, London and Paris banker, held up at New York by immigration authorities on the ground that he had been implicated in charges involving moral turpitude, was ordered released.

Luther Burbank, plant evolutionist, and his secretary, Miss Elizabeth Waters, Chicago, married at San Francisco Thursday by Rev. C. S. Dutton, pastor of the First Unitarian church. The ceremony was private.

One passenger was killed and several persons were injured when the Seminole Limited, from Jacksonville to Chicago, married at San Francisco Thursday by Rev. C. S. Dutton, pastor of the First Unitarian church. The ceremony was private.

Movements of Steamships.

Copenhagen, Dec. 19.—Arrived: Steamer Frederik VIII, New York. Bergen, Dec. 20.—Arrived: Steamer Bergensfjord, New York.

New York, Dec. 21.—Signalled: Steamer La Touraine, Bordeaux for New York. Dock 8 a. m. Friday.

Liverpool, Dec. 20.—Sailed: Steamer Lapland, New York.

## Exciting Day in the Stock Market

THE DAY'S SALES AGGREGATED 3,176,000 SHARES.

### PRICES SLAUGHTERED

"War Brides" Were the Most Adversely Affected—Losses of From 5 to 33 Points—Bankers Not Alarmed—Outsiders Are Standing the Losses.

New York, Dec. 21.—The stock market today went through the most exciting day in its history, with one exception. President Wilson's note to the belligerent powers, followed by Secretary Lansing's first explanatory statement of its intent, were the occasion of frenzied selling, which a scoop and volume early dwarfed all the operations which followed on the peace proposals from Germany.

Prices were sloughed to the extent of 5, 10 and 15 points, in one case 23, and the day's sales aggregated 3,176,000 shares, a total without precedent since the famous Northern Pacific corner of 1901. The decline was virtually unchecked, only a few nominal rallies marking the trading of the final hour.

"War Brides" Adversely Affected.

The liquidation of the forenoon, aggregating more than 1,300,000 shares alone, was confined, as has been the case in the recent operations, to the so-called "war brides," or stocks which might be adversely affected by the declaration of peace, but soon after the publication of Secretary Lansing's statement suggesting that the United States was "drawing nearer to the verge of war," rallies also began to participate in the decline, selling off sharply, with losses of from four to eight points before the close.

Brokers' offices long before the opening were loaded with selling orders, and when the gong on the floor

(Continued on Page Ten.)

### RAILROADS NOT COMPLYING TO REDISTRIBUTION PLANS

Boston and Albany and Maine Central Two of Eight Roads Named.

Washington, Dec. 21.—In line with its announced policy of bringing before the bar of public opinion the railroads which do not co-operate in car redistribution plans, the commission on car redistribution announced tonight that eight roads had failed to carry out recommended redistribution measures.

The roads named are the Boston and Albany, the Maine Central, the Lenox Valley, the Philadelphia and Reading, the New York Central, the Michigan Central, the Washburn and Toledo and Ohio Central.

"It is clearly apparent," says the announcement, "that these companies, having an excess of box cars and equipment, have not complied with the request of the commission on car service to deliver a designated excess of box cars to southern and western connections above the number of box cars received from such connections."

### MATTHEW HARRIS, A NEGRO, WON \$42,500 DAMAGE SUIT.

Decision Rests on 'A Man's Home is His Castle'—Fired at Posses.

Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 21.—Upholding the contention of a man's home is his castle and he has a right to defend it," which Judge John E. McCall emphasized in his charge, a jury in federal court here today awarded Matthew Harris a negro, \$22,500 compensatory and \$20,000 punitive damages in his suit against John A. Reicinman, former sheriff of Shelby county, and members of a posse.

Harris, who sued for \$100,000, was seriously injured when his home was dynamited in 1910. He was shot by him after the fired on the posse which was searching for one of his relatives. Harris testified that he was not aware of the identity of the posse men who had shot at him.

Reicinman was exempted from the verdict for punitive damages. It was \$20,000 that he was not actually a member of the posse.

### POPULATION OF UNITED STATES IS SHIFTING TO CITIES

40.9 Per Cent. of the Country's Inhabitants Live in Cities of More Than 8,000.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The population of the United States continues to shift to the cities, according to estimates announced today by the census bureau. The estimates, based on the rate of population increases from 1900 to 1910, disclosed that 40.9 per cent. of the country's inhabitants now live in cities of more than 8,000, as against 38.9 per cent. in 1910. The entire population of Continental United States for 1916 has already been estimated at 102,017,312. The total in the states, territories and United States possessions is put at 112,444,820.

### COULDN'T FIND VOUCHERS, SO HE KILLED HIMSELF

Postmaster Walter E. Mearns of Steep Falls, Me., Hanged Himself.

Steep Falls, Me., Dec. 21.—Postmaster Walter E. Mearns hanged himself in a deserted camp today after wandering all night through a swamp following his failure to find vouchers for a post office inspector. The matter of the vouchers could have been cleared up easily, according to the inspector.

### SMALL RUSSIAN STEAMER STRUCK BY A MINE

Fifty-nine Persons Were Killed—Only One Aboard Escaped.

Copenhagen, via London, Dec. 21, 11:22 p. m.—The small Russian steamer Skiflet has been sunk by striking a mine near Abo, Finland, according to advices received here. Fifty-nine persons were killed in the disaster. Only one person aboard the steamer was saved.

### ARCHBISHOP HARTY INSTALLED AS BISHOP OF OMAHA

Has Been in the Philippines for the Past Ten Years.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 21.—Archbishop Jeremiah J. Harty was installed as bishop of Omaha at St. Cecilia's Cathedral today. Two military bands, the Catholic church and 120 priests of Nebraska and Iowa were present at the ceremony. Archbishop Harty has been in the Philippine islands for the last 12 years.

Although the See of Omaha is only a bishopric and its head bears the lower title, Archbishop Harty retains the rank and title held previously and will be known as Archbishop Harty.

### AMERICAN-HAWAIIAN LINE STEAMER KANSAN DAMAGED

Presumably by Striking Mine—Was Carrying Horses to France.

New York, Dec. 21.—A cablegram from Captain Forsythe, of the steamer Kansan, received here today by the American-Hawaiian line, said she was damaged on Tuesday, "presumably by striking a mine." The Kansan carried horses for France, in addition to a general cargo.

It was the Kansan that first reported the activities of the German submarine U-53 off Nantucket on October 2. A wireless message from Captain Forsythe said his ship had been stopped by the submarine and compelled to prove her identity. The Kansan was then on her way to Boston.